

The state will join with private energy companies to provide an additional \$6.8 million to families in crisis. The state crisis intervention program, administered through the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Division of Social Services, provides a maximum of \$300 in energy assistance to low-income families who can demonstrate a heating or cooling crisis.

Families in financial need may contact their local Division of Social Services office for more information.

Weatherization programs are administered through DHHS. The weatherization program currently provides comprehensive weatherization services to 3,500 low-income families per year. About 70 percent of recipients are elderly. There is currently a waiting list of 2,500 eligible families who have signed up for the program but have not received services. With the funds made available today by Easley, this waiting list will be cut in half.

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